



Robert Brex, Executive Director, Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse on behalf of the Connecticut Prevention Network.

Testimony for General Law Committee in

Support of H.B. 6406, an Act Concerning the Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

March 5, 2013

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee, I submit this testimony for your review on behalf of the Connecticut Prevention Network, the Association of Regional Substance Abuse Action Councils.

My name is Bob Brex and as the Executive Director of Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse in Dayville, Connecticut, I have seen prescription drug use and abuse intensify in our society and our state.

The Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN) **supports HB 6406** as it strengthens the Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in several ways. It will require the registration of any person that prescribes medications and it also requires chain pharmacies to allow computer access by their personnel to the program. We need as many tools as possible to reduce prescription drug abuse and this bill increases the likelihood that this monitoring system will be used to a greater extent.

We have seen prescription drug abuse continue to increase in both the youth and adult age groups. In Northeast Connecticut alone, 14% of 11th graders have used prescription pain medication in a manner not for its intended use (NECASA Student Surveys, 2007-2012). We find the older the student the more the use rises.

In prevention, many different strategies must be undertaken to address the issue and limiting access is one of those strategies. This bill can help reduce individuals receiving multiple prescriptions and then selling surplus medications as "street drugs."

In closing, CPN supports HB 6406 as it strengthens the Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and it will help strengthen prevention efforts throughout Connecticut.